

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method for obtaining a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) value, comprising the steps of:

collecting received samples;

processing the received samples to obtain soft TFCI symbols;

decoding the soft TFCI symbols to obtain a TFCI value;

evaluating the TFCI value to determine if it is a valid index of a transport format combination set (TFCS);

if the TFCI value is a valid index of the TFCS, then

using the TFCI value obtained in said decoding step and ending the method;

if the TFCI value is not a valid index of the TFCS, then

selecting a valid TFCI value and using the selected TFCI value.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said selecting step includes selecting a decoded TFCI value from a previous frame.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said selecting step includes selecting a decoded TFCI value from a previous minimum transmission time interval.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said selecting step includes selecting a TFCI value corresponding to the first entry in the TFCS.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said selecting step includes selecting a TFCI value from a list of recently decoded TFCI values, wherein the selected TFCI value has been output the most frequently.